



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Payette
National
Forest

800 W Lakeside Ave
McCall ID 83638-3602
208-634-0700

File Code: 1570

Date: January 3, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED

Drs. Karen Balch and Olin Balch
P. O. Box 344
Cascade, ID 38611

Dear Drs. Karen and Olin Balch:

In accordance with 36 CFR 215.18, I have reviewed the appeal record, Environmental Assessment, Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (EA, DN/FONSI) for the Golden Meadows Exploration project on the Payette National Forest. My review focused on the project documentation and the issues raised in the appeal you filed. In reviewing your appeal, I have considered the recommendations of the Appeal Reviewing Officer regarding the disposition of your appeal. A copy of that recommendation is enclosed.

APPEAL DECISION

After careful consideration of the above factors and review of the project documentation provided, I am reversing the decision by Krassel District Ranger Anthony Botello. My decision is based on review of all the appeals and the project record. I find that the activities documented in the EA, DN/FONSI, and the project record are generally consistent with agency policy and the Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. However, I have determined that additional information about closed well drilling systems is needed to verify the conclusions in the analysis.

My decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 215.18(c)].

Sincerely,

/s/ Keith B. Lannom
KEITH B. LANNOM
Appeal Deciding Officer

Enclosure

cc: Anthony B Botello

